

BLACK VULTURE (*CATHARTES ATRATA*) IN VIRGINIA.

In the United States National Museum, there is an egg of the Black Vulture taken in Fauquier Co., Va., by my collector and sent to the Museum with a lot of *aura* eggs, but which upon first glance Major Bendire called *atrata* and labeled it as such. The collector said the bird's flight was peculiar, that he wondered at the time why it was that the vulture *sailed* so steadily and circled around so clumsily, but he did not know the Black Vulture and did not suppose it was other than *aura*. However, it turned out well. This is the first record for *Cathartes atrata* in Virginia, and I take pleasure in adding this species to the list of Virginia avifauna.

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THE YEAR'S WORK.

Although it is an entire month before the close of the current bird-year, a brief summary of the work is made necessary by the special bulletins which will mark the new year. This early summary is made less premature by the unlikeliness of much more work during the remaining weeks. Any further records would therefore be rather accidental than as the result of a definite effort, hence the timeliness of the summary as marking the close of the year's activity.

The year has been marked by much greater activity than during any previous eleven months, with the logical result that more records stand to its credit. The year's records reach 182, against 175 during the whole of 1898, and a smaller number for any preceding year. Yet this large number does not include eleven species recorded in 1898, six of which might be expected with a considerable degree of confidence. But seventeen species not recorded in 1898 are on the list for 1899, one of them, Carolina Wren, being a new county record. Of the remaining sixteen two were recorded by Mr. W. L. Dawson before his departure. The writer's list therefore numbers 180, against 170 for 1898. Two of this number—Prairie Warbler and Wilson's Phalarope—were new to the writer, and eight—Shoveller, Black Duck, Red-breasted Merganser,